

Mental



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Go to the following website, One Step Forward (link provided on this session's webpage) and print out the list of the seven human-made wonders of the world. Familiarize yourself with these attractions for the opening exercise.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Explore

- As you begin, ask the following introductory question: Here is a list of the seven human-made wonders of the world. How many can you name without looking?
- What modern structures would you include that are not on this list?
- Have someone read Mark 13:1-8 out loud and show the *Bible Background Video*.

✔ The End of All Things

- What did the disciples ask Jesus (verses 3-4)? What kind of information did they desire to know, and what did Jesus give in response?
- If time permits, have someone read the rest of this chapter. How specific was Jesus' information – did he give them any real clues as to when they could expect these things? Why do you think Jesus was so vague?
- Why is it significant that he gave the disciples signs not to worry about?
- Based on this information, do you think Jesus' goal in this conversation was to teach about the End Times? If not, what might his goal (or goals) have been?

✔ Things that Last

- Look back at the list from the opening exercise. Why do we find these human-made structures so awe-inspiring?
- Is it wrong to find awe and joy in the creativity and intelligence of human beings? Explain.
- How can these kinds of human accomplishments reflect the glory of God?

- Why do you think Jesus responded this way when the disciples marveled at the magnificent man-made temple (verses 1-2)? What might his response say about their misplaced wonder?
- In what ways can our trust in impressive human accomplishments replace our reverence and trust in God?
- What things will really last (see verse 31 for an example), and why should we place our trust in these things?

✔ Closing

Pray something like: *Creator God, you are the author of everything. As we find wonder in your creation and in your creatures, overwhelm us with your glory and love for us!*

By Jon Parks

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